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ABSTRACT

The early childhood education field is changing rapidly, and the theories and methods used in preschools and kindergartens--such as child-centered, hands-on learning--are now influencing the way primary school is taught. This book is designed to be a brief overview of the field of early childhood education. Chapter 1 describes the historical and philosophical foundations of education for young children, including the work of several historical figures. Chapter 2 discusses developmental stages and developmental theorists, and chapter 3 addresses how the historical and developmental theorists and their theories relate to a developmentally appropriate classroom. Chapter 4 describes ways to design an appropriate and stimulating environment and includes sample room arrangements, sample schedules, discipline techniques, and classroom management. Early childhood curriculum is discussed in chapter 5, with particular attention paid to early literacy instruction. The many forms of literacy are described and guidance is provided in integration of curriculum, individualized instruction, and providing appropriate and relevant reading materials. Chapter 6 addresses curriculum content in the areas of mathematics, science, social studies, fine arts, music, and art. Specific activities are included. Chapter 7 covers assessment and evaluation for young children. Finally, guidance is given in how to forge a positive home-school relationship. Contains 53 references. (SD)

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